



**BOARD OF REGENTS  
COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
AND TECHNOLOGY COMMERCIALIZATION**

Minutes of the Public Session  
June 9, 2016  
University of Maryland, Baltimore County

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The Committee on Economic Development and Technology Commercialization of the University System of Maryland (USM) Board of Regents met in public session on Thursday, June 9, 2016, on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor of the Albin O. Kuhns Library at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

Regent Attman called the meeting to order at 12:58 p.m. The regents in attendance were Mr. Attman, Mr. Brady, Mr. Gossett, Dr. Gourdine, Senator Kelly, Mr. Pevenstein, and Mr. Rauch. Also present at the meeting were Chancellor Caret, Mr. Sadowski, Mr. Vivona, Ms. Doyle, Mr. Balakrishnan, Dr. Audebert, Ms. Buitron, Ms. Dornajafi, Mr. Drake, Mr. Ferrari, Mr. Fink, Ms. Hess, Mr. Hughes, Dr. Irani, Mr. Kulczakowicz, Senior Counsel Langrill, Mr. Leaderman, Mr. Lord, Mr. Lurie, Ms. Martin, Ms. Metz, Mr. Murray, Mr. Naft, Dr. O'Shea, Mr. Raley, Mr. Simmons, Dr. Steiner, and Mr. Thomas.

1. Featured Start-Up – FlexEI, LLC (Information Item)

FlexEI, located in College Park, manufactures flexible batteries, biocompatible batteries, microbatteries and custom batteries for high volume applications. Dr. Jean-Francois Audebert, CEO of FlexEI, LLC, presented highlights of the company and its technology. The company was spun out of the University of Maryland, based on thin film battery technology, and was extensively nurtured through many of the startup resources at the university, including the Maryland Industrial Partnerships (MIPS) grant program and the Maryland Technology Enterprise Institute (Mtech) incubator space.

The company recently relocated to a 11,000 SF facility, leased from the university, and has been optimizing its original thin film battery technology and expanding into adjacent battery technologies to develop solutions for wearable technology, medical devices, military applications, disposable consumer electronics, remote sensing devices, and more. FlexEI is a powerful example of the potential of university-affiliated startups in energizing the region's economy.

2. USM Strategic Directions for Economic Development (Information Item)

An increasingly vital strategic imperative for the USM is to build on its success and focus its expertise, programs, and resources even more sharply and strategically

on the state's economic development priorities. Mr. Thomas Sadowski, who was recently appointed Vice Chancellor for Economic development, briefed the Committee on the USM's emerging strategic directions for economic development. In addition to examining the key attributes of innovation hubs, his briefing included an analysis of regional strengths in the areas of research and development, technology transfer, commercialization, availability of talent, and access to capital. He will be reviewing the USM's strategic focus areas over the next months.

### 3. UMBC – Strengthening the Entrepreneurial Ecosystem (Information Item)

Ms. Wendy Martin, Director of the Office of Technology Development at UMBC, presented on recent initiatives launched at UMBC to strengthen the continuum of support for its entrepreneurs. These initiatives have helped to leverage UMBC's research strengths; enhance partnerships between bwtech@UMBC Research & Technology Park, the Alex Brown Center for Entrepreneurship, and the Office of Technology Development; expedite licensing agreements; connect entrepreneurial faculty with students and promote cultural change; and improve access to entrepreneurs-in-residence, facilities, training programs and workshops.

Notably, UMBC has established an express license agreement and a technology catalyst fund. Also, with 50 cybersecurity companies, UMBC's business incubator, bwtech@UMBC, has the largest cybersecurity cluster in any university-affiliated research park in the US.

The public session was adjourned at 1:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary L. Attman, Chair  
Committee on Economic Development  
and Technology Commercialization